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(54) Title: **ABSORBENT HYDROGELS**

(57) **Abstract:** The invention provides absorbent hydrogel compositions and hydrogel-containing structures. Typically, a first por-  
tion of the novel materials comprises a porous flexible plasticised hydrophilic polymer matrix having an internal cellular structure,  
and a second portion is relatively non-porous, *e.g.* comprises a flexible plasticised hydrophilic polymer matrix having relatively  
continuous internal structure. Methods for the manufacture of such hydrogels and structures are provided, as well as uses thereof.

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